

Remarks

The Examiner has objected to claim 7 for lacking proper antecedent basis for the recitation of nubs or grooves. In responding to this objection, the Applicant has amended claim 7 to be dependent upon claim 6 thereby providing antecedent basis for the recitation. Review and acceptance is requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Soisson '463. Claims 2 through 4, 6 through 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soisson '463 in further view of Sherman '614. The Examiner has, however, indicated that claims 5 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In responding to these rejections, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 5 and intervening claims 3 and 4. The limitations of intervening claim 2 have not been included in amended claim 1, since the Applicant believes the structural recitations of claims 3, 4 and 5 are the elements which distinguish claim 5 from the prior art of record and not the fact that the seat body is hollow. This view is supported by the fact that claim 2 stands rejected under the prior art of record whereas claim 5 does not. Review and acceptance is requested.

The Applicant believes this communication be fully responsive to all remaining issues in this case and to pass the case into a position of allowance. With regard to the dependent claims of record, those claims inherit the limitations of the amended base claim and are therefore similarly allowable. The amendments to claims 7, 8, 10 and 11 were necessitated by the cancellation of claims 3, 4 and 5. Passage to issuance is therefore requested.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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